

Application Serial No. 09/987,991

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24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least one resistive element comprises at least one resistor.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one resistor comprises a plurality of resistors.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one capacitive element comprises at least one capacitor.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one capacitor comprises a plurality of capacitors.

29. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one guard element (118) comprises at least two guard elements.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the at least two guard element (118)s comprise three or more guard elements.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one resistive guard element (124) comprises at least one resistor coupled to the at least one capacitive element.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one resistive guard element (124) increases a stability of a voltage drop across the high voltage impedance element (104).

34. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one guard element (118) is coaxially mounted around the high voltage impedance element (104).

35. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising a step of h) shunting stray capacitive currents to ground via the at least one guard element (118).